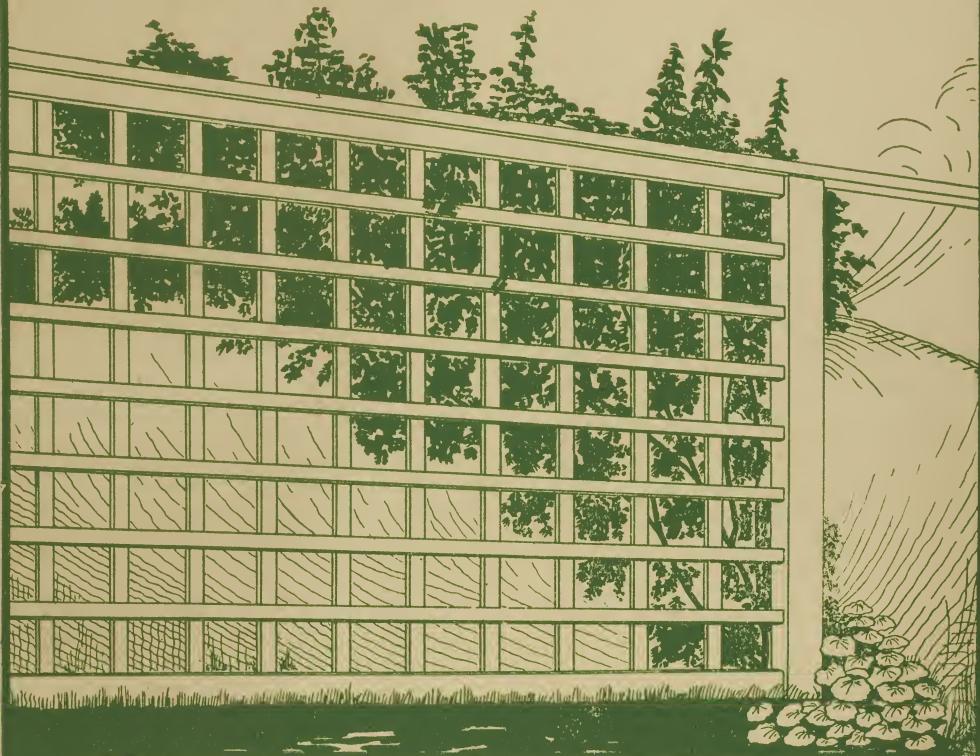


California Garden



IN THIS NUMBER

GARDENS FOR THE MONTH
SEED PREMIUMS
LATHHOUSE
ROSES
MORE OF CONIFERS
MEXICAN GARDENS



DEC. 1922

TEN CENTS

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The California Garden

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Vol. 14

POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, DEC. 1922

No. 6

BALBOA PARK NOTES

CONIFEROUS TREES—Continued. (By J. G. Morley, Park Superintendent)

ARAUCARIAS. The Araucarias are one of the most noble and symmetrical of all the conifers. The majority of the varieties are not hardy, therefore may only be grown as trees in the warmer sections of the United States. They are dioecious or sub-dioecious evergreen trees with usually imbricated, persistent, flat, sessile, scale-like leaves.

They produce very large cones, the male cones are large, symmetrical, terminal; the female ones very large and globular, with dense Ligneous scales, each bearing a solitary seed. In California, the seeds very seldom mature on the varieties grown and they are chiefly propagated from cuttings or imported seed from their native countries.

The varieties *Bidwillii* and *Excelsa* are the ones mostly grown in the United States and other countries of the temperate zone, as pot or tub plants, for decoration in greenhouses and residences where they may be kept from freezing. The variety, *Excelsa*, is grown extensively for that purpose. The Araucaria *Bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya or Moreton Bay Pine) is sometimes called the monkey puzzle tree owing to the prickly character of the foliage. However, the variety, *Imbricata*, is the true monkey puzzle tree, which has foliage so sharp that monkeys cannot climb it. It has been planted extensively in warmer sections of California, and is a handsome, symmetrical tree with dark green foliage. A few are growing in Balboa Park, some in the Golden Hill section, and several in the Exposition Grounds, and may be noticed by the prickly character of the foliage.

The Araucaria *Imbricata* (The Monkey Puzzle) is quite a hardy tree,—a few having been planted in parks and gardens of California, especially in the neighborhood of San Francisco. In Southern California it sunburns and does not seem to thrive. A few that were planted in Balboa Park did not survive for that reason. This tree has been planted extensively in Europe, especially in England and Scotland, where it thrives exceedingly well.

Araucaria Excelsa (The Norfolk Island Pine). This variety has been planted extensively for ornamentation in California in gar-

dens and parks, especially years ago. It is a splendid tall-growing symmetrical tree, from Norfolk Island, off the coast of South America. A few very fine specimens are growing in San Diego in the Golden Hill section, and also in Balboa Park. During the severe frost of 1913, a number of these trees were killed. This condition may never occur again, and it would be advisable to plant many more of this beautiful tree.

Araucaria Cookii is a native of New Caledonia, and is a beautiful tree, somewhat similar to the *Araucaria Excelsa*. It attains a height in full growth of 200 feet. I have not planted it in San Diego. There are several very fine specimens growing in Los Angeles, Pasadena and vicinity, and is a tree well worthy of planting in parks or large gardens.

ABIES (Spruce Fir). These beautiful slow-growing trees are one of our finest conifers. There are none growing at present in Balboa Park. I am, however, going to give a brief description of the few that I have grown in Southern California, and that should grow well in San Diego.

Abies Pinsapo (Spanish Silver Fir). This is an exceedingly handsome variety,—a native of Spain, where the climate is somewhat the same as ours. It grows well in this climate and is a magnificent variety to plant.

Abies Nordmanniana, a very beautiful tree from South Russia,—grows well in Southern California, and should be in every collection of evergreens.

Abies Concolor, a native spruce of California. It thrives well when planted in our gardens,—has glaucous, green foliage, and in its native habitat, attains a height of 150 feet.

Abies Amabilis (meaning lovely). This is a beautiful conifer, a native of California and one of our most magnificent trees, although slow-growing. It sometimes attains a height of 180 feet.

CASUARINA. A very interesting variety of trees from Australia. The name *Casuarina* is supposed to be derived from the resemblance of the long, weeping, leafless branches, to the drooping feathers of the

Cassowary. This tree is sometimes called the Beefwood, and is very distinct in its habit of growth and foliage from any of the other conifers.

They will thrive in very poor soil, also in soil of an alkali character. They are fine for seacoast planting, as they will withstand the sea breezes and salt spray from the ocean.

Casuarina Striata is a fine variety of symmetrical growth, with graceful, feathery foliage,—is fine for planting singly or in large groups. It is a very fine street tree for narrow streets and parkways, and unlike most of the conifers, owing to their resinous character, will not hold dust in the foliage during our dry seasons,—always having a clean appearance.

Casuarina Equisetifolia,—this variety is not of as symmetrical growth as the former. It is a very graceful, oddlooking tree, with a yellowish color on the young foliage, which is especially noticeable when planted in large groups. The main stems of the trees are literally covered with small, dark colored cones, which gives the trees a very interesting appearance. Several large groups of these trees are planted in Balboa Park,—the largest and most noticeable group being on the south slope of the canyon north of the rose garden.

CUPRESSUS (Cypress). One of our finest conifers,—they are suitable for planting in large groups, for avenues, single specimens, and for hedges.

Cypressus Macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) is a tall, wide-spreading, symmetrical tree, when grown away from the Coast. Along the Coast in its native habitat, it has a windswept, gnarled appearance. This variety is extensively used in California for hedges.

Cupressus Guadeloupensis, is a native of Lower California and the Guadeloupe Islands. It is a beautiful, symmetrical tree with glaucous colored foliage. The variety Guadeloupensis Glauca is exceedingly beautiful. A large group of these trees are growing on the west side of Balboa Park, between Redwood and Upas Sts.

Cupressus Arizonica (Bentham's Cypress) is a native of Arizona and northern Mexico. This variety is very drought-resisting and grows well in poor, rocky soil. A large group of these trees are growing on the west slope of Cabrillo Canyon, at the foot of the Quince Street hill.

Cupressus Sempervirens, a native of the south of Europe, commonly known as Italian Cypress. It has of late years been planted more extensively than any other variety in Southern California. Its tall, splendid growth lends itself to the charming landscape effects that are produced in our gardens and parks, or for avenues and planted singly, and in small groups. In Southern European countries along the Mediterranean, it is one of the most picturesque trees in the beautiful gar-

ens of that region.

CHAMAECYPARIS. Synonymous with Ratinospira, are beautiful evergreen trees and shrubs. Frequently they are classed with the Cypress, which they resemble very closely.

Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana (Lawson's Cypress) is one of California's most beautiful trees. It thrives well in practically all climates,—is partial to cool, moist conditions with deep, rich soil. The trees grow to a height of 75 or 100 feet. There are many varieties of this tree, many of which are grown as shrubs by pruning. In fact, many nurserymen's catalogues class them as shrubs.

C. L. Albo Variegata, C. L. Argentea (silver), C. L. Erecta Viridis, C. L. Feliformis, C. L. Lutea are among the best varieties of Lawson Cypress to plant, and are very beautiful, grown either as a shrub or as a tree.

Chanaecyparis Nutakensis, a native of the North Pacific Coast, and C. Obtusa, a Japanese variety, are well worth growing, as they are very beautiful varieties, and are very effective for landscape planting.

JUNIPERS. The Junipers are very beautiful conifers,—they do not grow as large as many others, but are used extensively for ornamentation in parks and gardens.

Juniperus Virginian (Red Cedar) a beautiful tree, native of Virginia, South and Middle West States,—grows well under all conditions. It is a very ornamental tree, valuable for its timber which has an aromatic fragrance and is used extensively for making cedar trunks and other useful articles. A group of these trees are growing in Balboa Park on the brow of the hill near Sixth and Upas Streets.

Juniperus Hibernica (Irish Juniper), Juniperus Bermudiana (Bermuda Juniper), Juniperus Japonica (Japanese Juniper), Juniperus Occidentalis are all very fine varieties for planting. Juniperus Drupacea is a very handsome and distinct species,—native of Syria. A group of this species is growing in Balboa Park, near Sixth and Juniper Streets.

TAXODIUM (Resembling the yew. Conifers native of United States and Mexico, nearly all varieties of this family are deciduous shedding their foliage in the fall and winter. They are very interesting for that reason, as there are very few of the conifers that are deciduous.

There are two varieties of Taxodium; Distinnum, a deciduous variety, and Taxodium Mucronatum, an evergreen variety, planted among a group of pine trees in Balboa Park, on the west side, near Sixth and Nutmeg Streets.

THUJA (Arbor Vitae). Beautiful evergreen trees and shrubs.

Thuja Gigantea (White Cedar) is one of the most beautiful trees of the Northwestern and Pacific Coast States, and is extensively

Cont'd on Page 4

MEXICANS' GARDENS IN CALIFORNIA

Charles Francis Saunders

580 North Lake Ave., Pasadena, California.

In the course of my rambles I often find entertainment and instruction in the humble gardens of the Mexican settlements on the outskirts of our Southern California towns. Sometimes my observations are conducted solitarily over a paling fence, but when the owners are around I am pretty sure to be invited in for closer inspection and offered seeds or cuttings if I want them. I find them a flower-loving sort, the Mexican women particularly, and if you are not in a hurry and know a bit of Spanish, their native shyness disappears under the sense of sympathetic comradery in the love of plants, and they seem to enjoy your call as much as you do yourself.

Now and then, in the midst of a happy family of sprawling marigolds, geraniums, chrysanthemums, stocks, callas, roses of Castile and what not, my eye will be caught by the sight of something unfamiliar. One autumn day two or three years ago I saw in a dooryard in the Los Angeles Sonora-town a weedy-looking, half shrubby plant bearing an abundance of greenish berries. A man who was sunning himself by the gate, told me that earlier in the year it had borne a profusion of little flowers that smelled exceedingly sweet but only at night, and that the Spanish people called the plant *Huele de noche*, that is, "smells by night", or sometimes *Dama de noche*, "Lady of the Night." This excited my curiosity and passing that way later I got a few of the ripened seeds, which I planted at home. In due course of time they came up, but all but one seedling succumbed to one vicissitude or another, and then that fell before the killing frosts of last January. The root, however, pulled through unhurt, and some lusty shoots put up and prospered. I watched sedulously all summer for some sign of bloom, which I could never detect and had almost forgotten about the matter, when one September evening a delicate fragrance in the dusk apprized me that the long-hoped-for had happened. The tiny yellowish flowers clustered close to the stem were hardly distinguishable amid the leafage. Next day the flowers were plainly there but scentless, though with the advent of evening they were again deliciously fragrant. The plant was *Cestrum nocturnum*, a member of the remarkable family that gives us the petunia, the salpiglossis, the tobacco and several garden vegetables, as the potato, the egg-plant and the tomato. This Lady of the Night is of West Indian origin, I believe, and is cultivated in tropical gardens around the world. I suppose it has reached us from Mexico along with the fig and the olive and the pomegranate and so much that we love

as typically Californian nowadays. There is a certain sentiment about the flowers of the night that makes them particularly alluring, I think, and fits them to companion the moonlight and serenades.

Another favorite in our Mexicans' gardens—although by no means confined to them—is a shrubby plant with dark-green, wrinkled leaves, mintily fragrant, and bearing off and on throughout the year small, two-lipped flowers vividly red, which glow like fire against the background of the foliage. It is *Salvia Grahami*—a native of Mexico, and the Mexican-Californians of my acquaintance call it *salvia* correctly enough, though it has other names, too. A friend of mine, a lady of Spanish parentage who had been brought up in Mexico, exclaimed with delight one day when she saw the plant in our garden in Pasadena. She called it *mirto*, and said it covered the hillsides about her old home near Zacatecas, and always after the rains the bushes would break into bright sparkles of bloom. Any one in quest of a desirable shrub of easy culture has it in *Salvia Grahami*. It grows readily from cuttings, is frost resistant and drought resistant, always green, beautiful of flower and pungently fragrant of leaf. Moreover it takes kindly to being sheared and I fancy would be very useful for a hedge.

It was in one of these frowsy old garden spots that I once came upon a little bush small, leathery, prickly foliage that seemed at first glance to be speckled with some sort of scale. Closer inspection showed that this was the remains of tiny blossoms which sprang directly from the surface of the stiff, flat leaf-blades. My hostess had no name for the plant and I took a specimen for further study. Imagine my surprise when it proved to be a relative of the succulent asparagus and the aristocratic lily—*Ruscus aculeatus*—and what I had taken for leaves were not leaves at all, but transformed branchlets flattened out to take the appearance and perform the function of leaves—what botanists call *cladodia*. This little shrub, by the way, has brought with it to California a rather curious history. It is a native of Europe and for centuries has been known in England as Butcher's Broom. This, I read, because of the former use of the bunched branches in meat-shops both as a whisk wherewith to sweep off the chopping blocks, and also to suspend amongst the hung-up legs of mutton and rounds of beef and so keep at dagger's point the marauding mice and rats and bats! The names for it in other languages indicate that on the Continent its use as a vermin discourager was the customary one—a sig-

Cont'd on Page 8

FALLEN LEAVES.

A gentle rain has been descending all day washing the accumulated dust of the summer from leaf and branch of tree and shrub and vine.

The face of old Mother Earth has been refreshed by the showers, and soon her bosom will be covered with a mantle of green.

While I write, I look out the window occasionally, and look upon the naked limbs of some Fig trees, an Apple tree with its bare branches, and beneath their defoliated tops, lie the garments which they wore during the summer months.

This scene is a reminder of the many such in an Eastern state, when the chilly days of autumn made the forests glow in colors of crimson and gold, and the storm king came along and shook the clothing from off the Beech, the Birch, the Maple and the Oak, covering the ground deep beneath a carpet of fallen leaves.

Now in the economy of Nature, this carpet served a two-fold purpose: the protection of the surface rootlets of the trees from frost and later, as the leaves turned to mould, fed the trees and prepared them for the work they had to do the next season.

This method of rest and rejuvenation in a frosty climate is no less pronounced in this mild climate, and the leaves should be as carefully saved and applied to orchard and the garden on this coast as is done with them on the Atlantic coast.

They contain fertilizer for which we pay fabulous prices when buying it from the factory.

Then, too, the humus from their decayed bodies puts life into the soil as nothing else will do.

If applied to all shrubs, of whatever name or nature growing in our gardens and left remain until the warm days of summer (we have but two seasons, spring and summer), the treatment will be so beneficial to the subjects that it will surprise the most optimistic gardener.

If the fallen leaves are applied now, and an examination is made about next April, it will be discovered that the rootlets of shrub, vine and tree have been reveling in the fertility beneath the covering.

Yes beloved, save the fallen leaves and with them enrich your garden.

ASHES.

The season of the year is at hand in this Southland when a little fire is necessary for comfort, during the evening and early morning.

One of the peculiarities of this climate is the great range of temperature between midday and midnight; frequently as much as forty degrees.

Wood ashes contain more available potash

than any other fertilizer we may apply. Lime is also one of their constituents; moreover they "liven" up the ground when liberally applied.

The scientific chaps tell us that coal ashes are worthless. Maybe they are right, but I am very sure that they, too, have a beneficial effect on the soil and add greatly to the vigor of plants where they are used in the garden; therefore I say save the ashes and use them on flower beds and in the vegetable garden.

P. D. BARNHART.

BALBOA PARK NOTES

Continued from page 2

planted in parks in all countries.

Thuja Occidentalis (American Arbor Vitae) is a beautiful tree, is extensively planted in parks and gardens, both as a tree and shrub. In the Eastern states it is used as a hedge as it will stand trimming like our Monterey Cypress. There are many hybrid types of these trees, many of which are among our most ornamental trees and shrubs.

The Coniferous trees composing this article and the November issue are all of proven merit. Conifers embrace such a large field that it is impossible to cover the varieties in such limited space. In the next issue, some of the best and most interesting of the coniferous shrubs will be described for the benefit of our readers.

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The Dec. & Jan. Gardens

DECEMBER GARDEN

Already 1923 Catalogs have begun to come through the mails with all the alluring novelties, as well as the old-time favorites listed, this reminds us that there are many things can be done in the garden this month even though flowers are not as plentiful as heretofore—if one has a good stock of hardy perennials this is the time to divide and replant, for to maintain a really successful hardy border the strong growing kinds of spreading habit should be taken up and divided frequently, Penstemons, Hardy Asters, Phlox, Sunflowers, and all of similar habits should be lifted, separated and replaced in enriched soil, at least every other season. Smaller growing kinds as often as their condition requires it. You will find that the majority of early flowering Perennials produce their growth from a compact crown, so can remain several seasons without disturbing, the harder growing kinds mostly blooming in the late summer, or in the fall make each season numerous side growths from the old crown which usually dies away. A strong side growth if very carefully lifted and replanted in good soil will produce much better flowers and a better plant than an old individual clump. "Shastas" do especially well planted to single divisions. The selection of varieties of course will depend on location and the personal preference of the owner, but the fact of ultimate height should always be in mind when planting, keeping all tall growing, and coarser kinds at the back—during the winter, and the rainy season, the border and beds should be cultivated frequently to keep down weeds and provide suitable growing conditions. Hardy borders if well started in the beginning are an unending joy to the grower.

If you did not get your bulbs into the ground last month, do so now but do not plant quite as deep as you would have done earlier—keep the soil loose around those that are pushing thro' the ground when working with the trowel, do not leave little depressions around the clumps, but round up the soil, so that they will shed the water, do not keep your soil where the bulbs are planted soggy or they will surely rot, when the leaves lie on the ground lift and sprinkle coarse sand, mixed with tobacco dust or lime to check slugs and snails. Keeping up a continuous supply of flowers can be done by putting in seeds of the annuals every week

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THE DECEMBER GARDEN

(By Walter Birch)

After a few hit or miss guesses on the part of our local weather man, we are now getting weather according to schedule, having had a nice drizzling rain for the last day or two and the promise of more for the next twenty-four hours, with every indication that we will have it.

The air is soft and balmy and ones thoughts turn naturally to the garden. But before talking of vegetables let us think and talk for a minute or two about that piece of ground over which we usually approach the garden, I mean the lawn. There are few things that add so much to the beauty of the home as a well kept lawn, and this is the best time of year to renovate that old lawn of yours which is of course partly or wholly infested with Bermuda Grass. The very name fills one with a feeling of helplessness when one thinks of the many patches in need of attention, but now that the colder weather is coming on is the time to get ahead of this pest, as Bermuda grass makes little or no growth during the winter.

Go carefully over your lawn with a rake, a cutter bar rake is the best, because that cuts off the surface grass and runners and makes a shallow seed bed at the same time, but if you have not got a cutter bar rake use a common rake, tearing up the surface of the lawn enough to get rid of considerable old grass and lifting the runners of the Bermuda so that you can cut them off pretty well with the lawn mower. Then go over the ground with White Clover at the rate of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to every 800 or 1000 sq. ft. If the lawn is badly run down apply about 50 lbs. of good commercial fertilizer to every 1000 sq. ft. of ground a few days before sowing the clover. Keep the lawn well sprinkled until the clover makes a good start and you will be surprised how the clover will get ahead of the Bermuda and improve the appearance of the lawn for another year.

Of course if it is a new lawn you want, you must thoroughly spade up, fertilize and otherwise prepare your ground, sowing at the rate of one pound of lawn grass to about 150 sq. ft. of surface, the best mixture being 75 per cent Kentucky Blue Grass and 25 per cent White Clover.

In the vegetable garden continue the setting out of Cabbage and Cauliflower plants also onion sets, and start your asparagus bed

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The California Garden

A. D. Robinson, Editor
Office, Rosecroft, Point Loma, Cal.
Mrs. Sidney E. Mayer, Associate Editor
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EDITORIALLY

It has never been the practice of California Garden to comment on the passing from here to there of its friends, but it believes in exceptions to all rules and Ralph Sumner was an exceptional friend. He has gone to his "Elfin Woods" and we doubt not has been received as to the nature born. Probably only a few of our readers know much of Sumner except through his writings, he made so little noise, he counted himself so small that in this age of boast and boast he was only noticed when sought for. We knew him quite well, we had the privilege of being among his friends and as we write this totally inadequate tribute we are really living again a trip into the high mountains we took together a few years ago. We were talking publicly about our native Sylva and felt the need of material support and Sumner accompanied us after specimens. It was a great day, we had not realised that a grown man in these times could stay so sweet and simple as he disclosed himself in his joy at being with the trees and the flowers, the sunshine and the good old earth itself. He apologized for the branches he culled, he climbed trees as a child throws itself into the arms of its mother and his face was a continual thanksgiving for the blessings of green things. We lingered so long in his beloved mountains that the sun was setting before we were half way home and it set with immense majesty and glory, we rode into it, every hill showed us new treasures of color and Sumner sat there drinking it in, never saying a word and yet he was the best of companions. We think and would have you think that Ralph Sumner is at peace in the Beautiful Sunset.

We are led to believe that at Christmas time an editor should become a sort of hybrid between a minister and a Santa Claus with a touch of a prophet. He should say soothing things somewhat pompously, he should bless the past and glow over the future and generally prepare the way for a fresh start on the journey of life.

Our readers must go elsewhere for this program to tell the world now that it or any part of it is a howling success would seem like commanding a child for a bad habit, what it wants is a sound spanking and the spanker appears to be absent. We admit we should be in on this spanking, we have sweetened our bread with the thought of the lack of others, warmed more thoroughly with the sunshine of San Diego because elsewhere clouds hovered and lived with the deadly comparison as a daily companion, and probably shall keep on so doing, but our hope lies in being sometimes ashamed. Thus at this festive season we find as our main source for gratulation that we are sometimes ashamed—What is yours?

MY FIENDISH FRIEND

(By Pearl La Force Mayer)

Oh hose, which I must drag around
To irrigate my lovely flowers,
I truly think you are a fiend.
Who seeks to persecute my hours

You always soak the very place
I want to leave most clean and dry,
You drench my shoes and squirm about
And squirt me SMACK, right in the eye!

And when I'm wearing something clean
You never fail to know of it
And find some mud and smear me up
Until I nearly have a fit!

And when you know I'm unprepared
And not expecting any trick
You jerk me forty ways at once
By catching on a hidden stick!

If for a bit I lay you down
No saving time it ever boots
Because you'll surely squirm about
And wash my plants out by the roots

There's nothing that delights you more
Than to give my favorite plant a whack
And break a branch—or else you LOVE
To spring a leak and soak my back!

Oh fiendish hose, your faults and pranks
Not for one minute would I bear
Except that you make possible
My California garden fair!

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

JANUARY MEETING

The Semi-annual meeting of the Floral Association in January will be held at the San Diego Club House the third Tuesday of the month. A special program including speakers who can speak, not the old warhorses, musical numbers and real decorations is being arranged. Come out and start the year well however you finish it.

A TREAT IN STORE FOR GARDEN FOLKS**JOHN A. WISTER INVITED TO
LECTURE HERE**

The Floral Association has extended an invitation to John C. Wister of Germantown, Pa., to include San Diego in his proposed lecturing tour of California next February.

Mr. Wister has travelled extensively in Europe visiting gardens, nurseries, parks, etc., and is fully equipped to give garden folks a rare treat. Mr. Wister is a landscape artist and President of the American Iris Society and Secretary of the American Rose Society.

Full particulars will be forthcoming in the January California Garden and Daily Press.

NOVEMBER MINUTES

One of the most enjoyable evenings spent by the Floral Association in a long time was the evening of Nov. 23d with Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Strauss, Palmetto Way. The musical numbers were most excellent, being instrumental pieces by Miss Dolce Grossmayer and three vocal solos by Mrs. Campbell, all of which was thoroughly appreciated by the fifty or more present.

The subject of the evening was, "Deciduous Shrubs," introduced by Miss Sessions. Miss Sessions spoke of some of the old standbys such as Lippia Citriodora, "Lemon Verbena," commonly called, also Cestrum Parqui, "night blooming jassamine". The Poinsettia and others that we should all have in our gardens but from her standpoint she much preferred the evergreen subjects, Mr. Robinson differing with her, his point being that deciduous shrubs and trees are needed to give change and variety in our gardens.

After the talk of the evening the subject of bringing Mr. Wister, noted traveler and speaker on gardens and horticulture, here to give a lecture one evening, later in the season, was put before those present, Mr. Wister is President of the American Rose Society, also of the National Iris Society, so that a talk from him would naturally be of interest and benefit to all who would hear him.

Notice of a meeting to be held in Balboa Park at the "Loggia Lagoon", Dec. 5th, 2:30 p. m. with a display of berry bearing shrubs was given.

A basket of choice Amayillis bulbs was brought by Miss Voss and distributed. The meeting was then adjourned.

MARY A MATTHEWS,
Secretary.

**SEED PREMIUMS WITH CALIFORNIA
GARDEN**

The seed given by California Garden as Premium is as follows:

Hanging Basket or Lloydii Tuberous Begonia

This seed has been carefully handpicked from the Rosecroft collection of upwards of twenty distinct varieties including many Rosecroft seedlings exclusively grown there. This collection has been pronounced far the finest in this country and the equal of any anywhere. The colors range from white to deep crimson including pinks, yellows, oranges, coppers, reds and pastel tints, and the forms are as various as the colors. With this seed goes detailed directions for culture, and the seed can be obtained in no other way.

Other Begonia seed include small Vernon type bedders which can be grown outside in sheltered locations. in pink, white with pink edge (Seashell) and white with orange edge. a seedling of Seashell, single Tuberous, and a seedling of Seashell, single Tuberous, and a small amount of some twenty of the large growers.

EMILY T. MOULD'S PRIZE DAHLIA SEED

This seed has been personally saved and donated to the California Garden by Miss Mould and is exclusively from her best blooms. The Mould collection of Dahlias is in a class by itself and was the feature of its section in the Fall Show.

P. H. TYLERS CALIFORNIA POPPY, SHIRLEY POPPY, SWEET PEA, AND RED SUNFLOWER SEED

The Flowers from which this seed was saved at Ocean Beach were extra in their class and the Garden is very desirous that the California Poppy especially should all be planted.

The Begonia and Dahlia Seed is only given with new subscriptions but the Poppy, Sweet Pea in mixture only and Sunflower will be allowed with renewals also. **With one subscription only one kind of seed.**

The Garden wishes to express its gratitude to the donors of this seed, which enables it to offer as a premium the value of a subscription. The same package of Hanging Tuberous sells for more money in the regular course of trade.

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEND A UNIQUE PRESENT.

LATHHOUSE FOR SALE

The Floral Association offers for \$25 the lathhouse structure that has appeared as its office at shows and elsewhere, it is in four sections and can be easily and cheaply adapted to use in a garden. It cost many times this amount to build. Communicate with the Secretary or Mrs. M. A. Greer 2972 First, she knows it from A to Z.

ROSES

(By E. Benard)

The rainy season being upon us will give the opportunity to plant Roses from now on during the winter months. It being the best time to plant with success.

Prepare your ground well, fertilize with well decomposed manure. Do not apply manure close to the roots, fill around the plants with loose soil not wet, press and apply water after planting. Many Roses have been killed by planting in muddy soil or in holes filled with water.

It is advisable to plant Roses budded in preference to those on their own roots, they have longer life and succeed better if worked on the right stock adapted for your location and soil and the varieties you expect to plant.

The following list of Rose stock best adapted for San Diego vicinity.

"Manetti" for almost all varieties of Hybrid Remontant.

"Rosomanes" or Ragged Robin, for the Hybrid Teas. Teas China, Bengales Noisette, etc.

"Dog Rose" Rosa canina for nearly all the varieties the Hybrid. Hybrid teas. Teas Noisette, Bengales, Bourbons, etc.

Recently a new stock of "Japanese Multiflora" has been used extensively for nearly all the different types of Roses as is the Griffereia Multiflora, but to my own observation has not given satisfaction. They grow well the first season but die soon after.

I have at the nursery some old Sorts which have been grown in their own Roots with success amongst the Bengals Noisette, China, Cherokee Polyantha, Banksia, Wichuriana, some of the above types have been planted over 20 years ago are still doing well and blooming abundantly.

But if you want to succeed with the newest sorts which have the delicate shades, better blooms and shaped flowers than can be found in the Hybrid Teas. Teas, they have to be budded on good stock for as a rule they are weaker growers and it requires a stronger root system to develop fine flowers.

Do not attempt to grow Rugosa, Moss or Provence they do not give satisfaction in this community.

For the benefit of the beginner in Rose growing I give below the list of the best Roses to plant with chance of success around San Diego.

Do not plant too many sorts, but plant several of each of the varieties that are giving good results.

In the RED SHADES—General McArthur, Ulrich Brunner, Red Radiance.

WHITE SHADES—K. A. Victoria, F. K. Druschi, British Queen, White Cochet.

YELLOW SHADES—Souvenir de Stella Gray, Sunburst, Lady Hillingdon, Mme Aaron Ward.

Among the newest sorts that have proven

satisfactory:

Los Angeles, shade of pink.

Lolita Armour, Crescent orange.

Lona Hardman, Yellow.

S. K. Rindge, Yellow.

Golden Emblem, Yellow.

K. of K., Crimson.

Bouquet Parfait No. 066, are improved Elizabeth Barnes.

Catherine Breslau, shade of yellow orange.

Climbing Roses:

Rene d'Or, Yellow.

Papa Goutier, Red.

Hoezien Beauty, Crimson.

Paul's Crimson, Crimson.

Cecile Brunner, Pink.

Car Testout, Pink.

Lamarque, White.

K. A. Victoria, White.

Mme. Alfred Carriere, White.

Pink and White Cherokee.

MEXICANS' GARDENS IN CALIFORNIA.

Continued from page 3

nificant commentary on the easy-going ways of the butchers of the good old times. Another name that has been bestowed upon the plant is Jews' Myrtle, from a superstition that the Saviour's crown of thorns was platted of it. Such bits of fact and fancy attaching to the plants of our gardens serve to endear them the more to us, I think, and one of the prime reasons for learning their correct names is that we may intelligently look up their literature and so learn of the part they have played in the great drama of human progress.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Continued from page 5

with good strong plants of the Palmetto variety. Asparagus needs lot of well rotted manure and deep spading. Set the roots at least 6 to 8 inches deep and about 18 inches apart, taking care to spread the roots out in their natural position.

Plant some good strong Rhubarb roots in well manured deeply spaded ground, planting roots about 3 ft. apart and barely covering in the ground.

Strawberry plants can also be planted now, if you have not already put them in, and continue sowing all the hardy vegetable seeds.

Finish the setting out of Narcissus and Tulips this month and try some Anemone and Ranunculus seed.

December and January are two of the best months for spraying your peach trees for the prevention of leaf curl, also for pruning your deciduous fruit trees.

If you need information concerning the lawn or garden, get any good Seed Catalogue for Southern California, they are generally full of reliable cultural directions on these subjects.

THE LATHHOUSE

A Series by Alfred D. Robinson.

A Series No. 3. Soil Fertilizer, etc.

Before taking up the question of soil for a lathhouse it would seem wise to discuss the all important subject of drainage as related to the natural conditions. Drainage and good drainage is a necessity. This is a natural state in our sandy loam grounds but we have a large area of adobe clayey or hardpan soil either on or near the surface. With these, unless situate on hillsides so that a drainage outlay can be satisfactorily arranged, the only course would seem to be to place drainage tile on the surface and build up the lathhouse compost above the level. This would not be the big job it appears at first glance because practically all lathhouse plants can root happily and grow cheerfully in a foot of soil. Supposing this method were adopted, it is obvious that care must be taken not to make the drainage too fast and pipe lines should be placed with a slight inclination from both ways down to the centre, but equally obviously this drop should not exceed half the depth of the superimposed soil. Four to six feet apart would be sufficiently close for the pipe lines. This would further call for a retaining wall of cement, or two-inch redwood. It would seem unnecessary, but my experience is that it is safer to assume complete ignorance, to mention that the drain tile is put down without cementing the joints and is the cheapest thing in its class.

Under this drainage head it may be also mentioned that with lathhouses on severe slopes level terraces are indicated. Planting of anything anywhere on smooth slopes in a country of continuous irrigation is mighty poor technique.

Now for the matter of soils. I am not reading any of my authorities on this subject, not because I do not recognise their authority, but because to be a guide on the practical side I must deal with material that is to hand and with which I have worked.

Begonias and ferns form the very large majority of the growth used in lathhouse planting and the rest are allied things needing like conditions, or they would not be there. These in their native state are inhabitants of forest floors and similar places and therefore grow in what is universally termed leafmould, but which I shall here term humus. At this point I paused and went to Bailey and Henderson for a proper definition of humus but found they both were mum on the subject; however, Webster when unabridged has this to say. "Humus is a brown or black material formed by the partial decomposition of vegetable or animal

matter; the organic portion of soil. It absorbs moisture and ammonia from the air and is an important constituent of the soil, although it is not, as was formerly supposed, the principal source of carbon for growing plants. Humus appears to be a complex and varying mixture; its chemistry has not been thoroughly worked out. According to some black humus consists of a weak acid, humic acid, which is soluble in alkalies and humin, which is insoluble; similarly, brown humus is said to consist of ulmic acid and ulmin. Other supposed constituents of humus are crenic acid, appocrenic acid, geic acid, gein. Humous substances in solution are important solvents of rocks." That is all, but it is enough perhaps. I copied it to spare you my own definition, which would have certainly turned into a pean of praise, possibly an ode; for if I were asked the two most necessary things for building a lathhouse I should answer: humor and humus; the first because any human labor without it is stale and profitless and the second because of all those things Webster says and hundreds of others he did not, because he never had a lathhouse.

Now we come to a bare spot, so to speak, and that is the lack of humus in all our soil except little pockets here and there. Hardly anywhere is the natural soil worth anything for lathhouse purposes. My own lathhouse does not now contain ten per cent of the original soil and it would be better without that. Does this matter very much? I think not, for the climate is the only thing not under more or less easy control, and for lathhouses or anything else I know of, San Diego has that nearer perfection than any other place on earth. In the limited area of lathhouses it is easy to make the soil, and such a course is advisable from the bottom up except in sand and sandy loams.

Leaf mould being the main constituent, or humus rather, it must be first considered; it is made by a WET decay of vegetation. You notice I emphasise WET, this because all sorts of stuff is peddled as leaf mould, most often the collection of dessicated leaves and twigs from under our chaparral, and the most touted of this is from under our scrub oak. This is leaves not leaf mould; but leaf mould lacking the process of wet decay and is dangerous because it is the hardest thing to wet outside a duck's back. I had a small pile of it outside my lathhouse last year and twenty-four inches of rain did not penetrate the pile two inches. Used in large proportion in pots it will resist any effort to wet it except by soaking and when sufficiently wet it has to start the decaying

process, which is always dangerous near the roots of things. The only leaf mould worthy of the name available must come from our mountains where moisture is sufficient to cause wet decay, or where homemade by the use of a pit and our all too expensive water. Should it be possible for any to get this mountain product they should remember that the leaves of this year are not wanted, but the rotted fall of last season; also that to scrape off to the soil and then cart what is below home is an expensive and laborious method of acquiring just earth. Fortunately, experience has proved that there is an excellent substitute manufactured nearer home, and that is cow fertilizer. How much we still owe this poor beastie which we chase from section to section by long ordinances with imposing numbers, and then haul back to our gardens the objectionable part of them.

The cow has a peculiar internal machinery that perfectly prepares vegetable matter to quickly become humus and which adds to the product very valuable plant foods and further reduces to a minimum the dangers arising from placing fertilizer in the hands of the ignorant or careless. I have not at hand a scientific account of this cud-chewing machine which I can copy, so must pass it with an expression of my sincere respect and wholesale admiration the latter mostly accorded to the noiseless character of the machine in operation. There is a swarthy complected gentleman at Nestor who owns a truck and is in cahoots with abodes of much chewing cows and he delivers this delectable plant food anywhere at 2.75 per yard. Again I must sound a note of warning, this time against the so-called well rotted fertilizer, I ask in Gods name where and how was it rotted either badly or well in this gloriously dry climate. Don't be fooled, it is thoroughly dessicated or ruined and the fresher your fertilizer the more thankful your plants.

Horse fertilizer wont do and sheep is too concentrated for our purpose as are commercial fertilizers.

In preparing the soil in a lathhouse a foot deep I would put on four inches of the best loam I could get, then two inches of sand four inches of cow manure and another two inches of loam. This I would keep thoroughly moist not wet for a month, then I would turn it all over thoroughly mixing and wet it down again when planting might commence, though I believe it would be benefitted by another month and another stirring. I should mix in the soil also a good sprinkling of charcoal and possibly a dusting of bone meal and confidently expect to grow anything that a lathhouse will grow.

Taking the other ingredients in order, the loam most preferred in older countries is that just under the sod of an old pasture but that means a constantly green grass meadow and we dont have them, however in almost every canyon are pockets of nice soft loam

that does very well, it should be of a sandy nature to avoid any tendency to pack. The sand preferably from a river bed and not too fine, and all should be without suspicion of alkali.

Where it can be obtained the soil from the top of a cow corral if the natural soil is sandy has the mixture already made.

I have spoken of waiting one or two months before planting. This is highly advisable, the mixture gets mixed and the ground settles removing all air spaces of any size that are very harmful. This is the reason that practically all planting directions say, firm the earth well.

I cannot recommend the peat that is imported here for lathhouse use, a small amount in potting mixture perhaps but as a main soil ingredient No!

Wood ashes I have used but when I say they did no harm I have told the tale. Lime I think is bad it may discourage slugs but it has a tendency to ball up with the constant watering and begonias don't like it further it is unsightly and obtrusive.

I place my chief reliance in the soil matter for lathhouses on cow manure and sand. I have for two seasons put the manure all over my lathhouse two or three inches thick with splendid results. I dont dig it in. However I should expect to repeat my experience with leaf mould, which was that after applying three years in succession the soil mixture became too loose, it neither held moisture nor roots and I see signs that next year I must put loam again on my beds. The signs I refer to are that on mounds and raised places the growths wilt if not continuously watered and examination shows that all but fibre has been washed down, and the absorbent quality of that fibre exhausted.

All lathhouses eventually have things in pots, boxes, hanging baskets and other movable receptacles and the soil for these is highly important, the more so as to be satisfactory it wants aging like mincemeat.

The most satisfactory potting soil I ever had was put up in a bin the Fall before using. I built up in layers of approximately four inches, leafmould, fertilizer, sand and repeated till the bin three feet deep was full and watered enough to keep always moist. The compost came out next year in a condition to grow hair on a bald head. Most of the fertilizer was of cow nature but there was some chicken. When I used this mixture I added charcoal and a dusting of bone meal.

Every lathhouse should have some bins in which to keep the various soil ingredients and also mixtures. For small things and seedlings add more sand and remove large bits of anything, but the general lathhouse mixture should be on the coarse order.

More detailed matters of soil will come under other planting and particular heads.

Next month Lathhouse accessories.

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DECEMBER 5TH AFTERNOON MEETING

An afternoon meeting of The Floral Association was held at 2:30 p. m. Dec. 5th in The Loggia east of the Lagoon, in Balboa Park. A beautiful spot, so considered, by all who frequent it. The occasion was for a display of berried shrubs, and Poinsettias the latter being conspicuously absent most of them having been injured last winter, and those that survived were not yet in full bloom.

Balboa Park had a most excellent showing of shrubs with berries, plainly named—so all could benefit, these same specimens were later in the afternoon fully explained as regards habits of growth, their native country, etc., by the Superintendent of Parks. Miss Sessions brought a beautiful specimen of "Nandina Domestica". A favorite shrub from Japan, and one that gives promise of doing well here—this not only has brilliant red berries but the foliage is highly colored, at this time of the year.

Quite a few specimens were brought by members, among them some large and luscious guavas.

The afternoon meetings of the Association with an especial object are becoming quite a feature, and enjoyed by all. About two hundred coming and going at this particular afternoon. Among them many strangers, who availed themselves of the opportunity.

MARY MATTHEWS,
Secretary.

Barbara Worth Hotel, San Diego

December 6, 922.

Miss Sessions suggested that the readers of the "California Garden" might be interested in hearing about some African wild flowers that were received here on November 23rd.

According to the florist's card enclosed, they were *Ornithogalum* (Cape wild flower) —local name, Chincherinchee. They were mailed from Cape Town, Africa by Mrs. Louise Hackett to Mrs. W. W. Whitson at least eight weeks before they were received here. They were tied up in bundles of about twenty-five and had evidently been packed while still in bud. They were packed tightly in a wooden box without any protection and sent by ordinary mail, with instructions to cut off the ends of the stems and place in water in a warm, dark place. When this direction was followed, the buds almost immediately opened into beautiful creamy flowers all around and clear to the end of the spike. One bunch that was kept where it was colder, in an effort to keep it back, is still flowering, a flower or two at a time and looks as though it might keep on for at least another week.

This looks to me like a record for shipping fresh flowers.

Laura B. Anderson.

DECEMBER GARDEN*Continued from page 5*

or ten days, the choice kinds can be planted in flats and shifted till large enough to grow out of doors.

December is one of the best months for planting summer blooming sweet peas. make your soil rich, and trench deeply and for success buy the best seed you can obtain. All the work you may put in the ground will not give success unless your seeds are good.

Larkspurs, (Annual kinds) Calendulas, French Marigolds, Mignonette, California Poppy and a host of other things will all reward you later if you get them into the ground as soon as possible this month.

This is a good time to start cuttings, of deciduous shrubs, cuttings of Rosemary, Lavender offsets from the Thyme, Bergamot etc. will all do well if started in a reserve bed now and put into permanent places in the Spring.

VIADUCT HAS NO EFFECT ON THE CLIMATE OF EUROPE

The Flagler viaduct to Key West has no effect on the Gulf Stream, on conditions in the North Atlantic Ocean, nor on the climate or weather of western Europe, the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture says positively, notwithstanding recent press assertions to the contrary. There is no record of any appreciable changes hav-

ing occurred in the Gulf Stream other than the slight modifications that occur in all oceanic currents. These have no effect on the climate of Europe except as the general temperatures of the waters of the ocean are raised or lowered with the fluctuations in the temperatures and strength of these and other currents as a whole.

The extension of the Florida Coast Railroad over the so-called Flagler viaduct to Key West can have no possible effect on the force, strength, or temperature of the Gulf Stream itself. The Flagler viaduct is a masonry arch railway structure carrying transportation over the very shallow shores and keys of the Florida peninsula. At no point is the relative depth of the water more than a few feet. The real channel of the Gulf Stream is far to the south of this shallow shore line, and it is certain that the footings of the viaduct can have no effect whatever on the channel between Florida and Cuba, where the Gulf Stream starts on its course from the Gulf of Mexico into the Atlantic Ocean.

The climate of western Europe is influenced very greatly by the oceanic conditions existing to the westward, because in this portion of the Northern Hemisphere the general trend of atmospheric motions is from the west eastward. It is obvious that the vast body of relatively warm water west of Europe necessarily contributes to mild and humid climatic conditions.

(The above is published not because we thought the Flagler viaduct was going to influence the climate of Europe, or even of Florida or any small portion thereof, but because we remember the continuous and excited comment on what the formation of the Salton Sea was to do to the climate of San Diego, which only stopped when the darned climate refused to notice the presence of that little pond and the U. S. published a comment pointing out how the Gulf of California had failed to keep Lower California from being one of the very dry places on the earth. It should have been stated that the Salton Sea was to have made summer rains.—Ed.)

TULIP BULBS MAY BE GROWN AT PROFIT IN UNITED STATES

Most of the tulip bulbs used in this country are imported, but good tulips can be grown here at a profit, says the United States Department of Agriculture, in Department Bulletin 1082, *The Production of Tulip Bulbs*, by David Griffiths. The bulbs are already being raised in commercial quantities by three or four companies in southern Michigan, by an association in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, by a company in northwestern California, another in the Norfolk region of Virginia and in a smaller way in a score of localities. The Department of Agriculture has been growing them successfully on Puget

Sound in the State of Washington.

There is no limit, says the bulletin, to the quantity of bulbs which it is possible to produce in the United States. We have climates that are unexcelled, regions with an abundant moisture supply from October to June, loams, and deep friable silts. The tulips already produced experimentally by the Department are as good as the best. They bed, they force, they produce, and they reproduce normally under American conditions. The industry of bulb production on a large scale, however, must develop slowly, for experience is necessary, and it is probable that for a long time the home-grown supply will be only supplementary to existing sources.

The bulletin contains full discussions on the culture of tulips, harvesting the flowers and bulbs, packing, shipping, enemies, and performance records of many varieties. Summed up in small space, some of the rules for successful tulip culture laid down by the department are: Do not plant on lean soil; use the most available source of fertility and utilize it to the utmost by thick planting; strive to plant back every year as large a percent of the smallest bulbs that will grow to maturity in one year as is compatible with maintenance of stock; do not sell the large bulbs, but plant back a small number of the largest and best, especially of the varieties that reproduce poorly; do not plant on the same ground more often than once in two or three years; dig and replant every year; practice clean culture and keep down weeds; preserve the bulb coats, do not let the bulbs mold, handle them without bruising; avoid breeders of self-colored stocks; plant early, as the best results are to be expected from plantings made before the end of September.

Copies of the bulletin may be obtained free from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, NATURE WALKS IN BALBOA PARK

Native Conifers in Cultivation, Fidella Gould Woodcock.

A look at the group of long-leaf pines just over the boundary line of North Balboa Park gave the class in nature study a happy thought to carry into the object lesson of our own native conifers within the park limits.

Pinus Canariensis, the Canary Island pine has been treated as a green house subject in other climates, but here it is a symmetrical tree of sixty or more feet, and the needles overrun the usual size by several inches the usual length being twelve or thirteen inches at most.

(Continued in January)

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